operate in reverse and be open when the electric meter is in a normal operating position, and closed when the electric meter is in the inoperative position.

[0033] The controller **12** may control and/or operate the generator **11** based on communications with the switch **17**. For example, the controller **12** may detect when the switch **17** has been opened to prevent the building X from receiving primary utility power **1**. The controller **12** may prevent the generator **11** from supplying power to the building X when the switch **17** has been opened. In some forms, the generator **11** may continue to operate even though the controller **12** is preventing the generator **11** from supplying power to the building X when the switch **17** has been opened.

[0034] As discussed above, the controller **12** may prevent the generator **11** from the supplying power to the building X in various ways that are known now, or discovered in the future. The controller **12** may prevent the generator **11** from starting when the controller **12** detects the switch **17** has been opened. In some forms, the controller **12** may shut down the generator **11** when the controller **12** detects the switch **17** has been opened.

[0035] In one example, the switch **17** is an electric meter and the controller **12** prevents operation of the generator **11** when the electric meter has been manipulated by a user U to prevent the building X from receiving utility power from the utility power source **1**. One example scenario for opening the switch **17** would be where rescue personnel open the switch **17** when arriving on the scene when fire **15** is detected in the building X.

[0036] Another example scenario for opening the switch **17** would be where an electrician pulls the switch **17** to perform maintenance within the building X. When the electrician cuts utility power, a conventional controller may command a generator to begin supplying power to the building X. Therefore, the electrician may undesirably be working in areas of the building X that are now supplied with power by the generator even though the electrician believes power has been cut to the building X. The power management system **10** may prevent individuals from operating in the building X under the misperception that all power has been cut to the building X by preventing the generator **11** from supplying power.

[0037] Any type of switch **17** that is known now, or discovered in the future, may be included in the example power generation systems **10** described herein. The type of switch **17** that is included in the secondary power generation system **10** may depend in part on cost and/or the application where the secondary power generation system **10** will be used.

[0038] FIG. **4** is a schematic view illustrating the example secondary power generation system **10** shown in FIG. **3** where the controller **12** is a generator controller **12** that selectively operates and protects the generator **11**. In some forms, the controller **12** may be included in other components that form the power management system **10**.

[0039] FIG. **5** shows an example form of the power management system **10** where the controller **12** opens a switch **18** that prevents the generator **11** from supplying power to the building X. In other various forms, the controller **12**, or some of other type of electronic component, may command some other type of electronic component that is known now, or discovered in the future, to prevent the generator **11** from supplying power to the building X.

[0040] In some forms, the controller **12** may be configured to receive an override command that allows the generator **11** to supply power even when the switch **17** has been opened. There may be situations where it is desirable to supply power from the generator **11** even when the switch **17** is open.

[0041] FIG. **6** shows an example secondary power generation system **10** that further includes a programmable interface module **30** that exchanges signals with the sensors **13**A, **13**B, **13**C, **13**D and the generator controller **12**. In some forms, the programmable interface module **30** includes a sensor circuit (not shown) that converts an input signal received from the sensors **13**A, **13**B, **13**C, **13**D for delivery to the generator controller **12**.

[0042] The programmable interface module **30** exchanges data with the generator controller **12** relating to the presence of fire in an environment where the sensors **13**A, **13**B, **13**C, **13**D are located. In some forms, the programmable interface module **30** may be adapted to be located outside or inside the building X to receive signals from the sensors **13**A, **13**B, **13**C, **13**D. The programmable interface module **30** may receive signals (i) from the sensors **13**A, **13**B, **13**C, **13**D indicating the presence of fire; and/or (ii) indicating that the switch **17** has been opened to prevent the building X from receiving utility power.

[0043] In some forms, a particular area of the building X may include multiple programmable interface modules **30**. The arrangement of the programmable interface modules **30** within the building X may depend on the overall configuration of the building X as well as what is located inside the building X.

[0044] The generator controller **12** may prevent the generator **11** from supplying power when the programmable interface module **30** sends signals to the generator controller. In some forms, the generator **11** may continue to operate even though the programmable interface module **30** is sending signals to the generator controller **12** that indicate the presence of fire within the building X.

[0045] It should be noted that the generator controller **12** may include a power source (not shown) that supplies power to operate the programmable interface module **30**. As an example, the power source may be a 12V direct current power source, although it should be noted that other sources for powering the programmable interface module **30** are contemplated.

[0046] In addition, the power source may be regulated by the generator controller **12**. It should be noted that the generator controller **12** may regulate power to the programmable interface module **30** when there is loss of utility power source **1**. Therefore, the loss of the utility power **1** may not affect operation of the programmable interface module **30**.

[0047] In some forms of the power generation systems **10** described herein, the generator **11** and/or generator controller **12** may be configured to provide data relating to operation of the secondary power generation system **10** to a user U via a network. In some forms, the secondary power generation system **10** may further include a server **20** that is connected to the generator **11** and/or generator controller **12** via a network (e.g., the Internet I). It should be noted that the generator **11** and/or the generator controller **12** may be connected to the network in a hard-wired or wireless manner.

[0048] The generator **11** and/or generator controller **12** may be configured to exchange data with the server **20**. As an example, the server **20** may provide notification to a user U indicating the presence of a fire **15** when the generator **11** and/or generator controller **12** provide data to the server **20** that one of the sensors **13**A, **13**B, **13**C, **13**D has detected fire